

FV
291

25X1

CLASSIFICATION SECRET
East Germany

COUNTRY _____ REPORT NO. _____

TOPIC _____
Military Information from Gera

25X1

EVALUATION _____ PLACE OBTAINED _____

25X1

DATE OF CONTENT _____ 25X1

DATE OBTAINED _____ DATE PREPARED 7 December 1953

REFERENCES _____ 25X1

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) _____

REMARKS _____

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

1. On 3 November, the Panzer Kaserne in Gera-Tinz was occupied by about 300 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. On 20 October, about 40 soldiers engaged in basic infantry training, and 50 other soldiers in athletic exercises, in the barracks area. Officers inspected 10 T-34/85 tanks which were lined up in the training area. On 21 October, about 25 soldiers did maintenance work on 4 T-34/85 tanks. Eight tank trucks _____ entered the installation. On 23 and 24 October, no training activity was observed in the barracks area. On 23 October, 4 T-34/85 tanks practiced attacking in the training area and, at about 9 a.m. on 24 October, 3 T-34/85 tanks moved out of the installation, heading toward Langenhauz/_____

2. On 3 November, the Reuss Kaserne was occupied by about 2,500 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery, signal and motor transport insignia. On 22 October, about 40 x 100-mm AT guns and about 10 x 122-mm field howitzers were lined up in the barracks area where about 35 soldiers practiced aiming with carbines and about 100 other soldiers practiced marching. On 30 October, about 20 soldiers trained with 2 x 100-mm AT guns. Activity in the workshops was intensive. On 2 November, soldiers apparently changed quarters in the billeting area, as numerous soldiers carried uniforms and other personal belongings from a building in the eastern section of the installation to quarters in the western section. Soldiers were at gun drill with 2 x 100-mm AT guns with prime movers parked in the yard. On 3 November, about 300 troops with full field pack entered the installation, coming from the direction of the training area between the Weinberg hill and Hainberg hill, west of Gera. 2 _____

25X1

3. The following shipments passed through Gera railroad station:

On 20 October: an undetermined number of flatcars with 2 armored machine gun carriers, 20 sidecar motorcycles and 6 trucks _____ and 12 boxcars with troops, coming from the direction of Zeitz and proceeding toward Jena.

25X1

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

SECRET

- 2 -

25X1

On 31 October, an undetermined number of flatcars with 3 T-34/85 tanks [] and 1 boxcar with about 25 soldiers, coming from the direction of Erfurt and proceeding toward Glauchau.

4. On 31 October, the Reuss Kaserne was occupied by about 3,600 to 3,800 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets including about 70 percent with artillery insignia and 30 percent with motor transport insignia. At about 4 a.m., about 20 trucks, each occupied by about 20 soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets and 6 prime movers, each towing a 100-mm AT gun entered the installation. Soldiers cleaned weapons and engaged in technical duty in the motor vehicle garages and gun sheds. Preparations for ceremonies on the occasion of October Revolution were made. []

2

3. On 31 October, the Panzer Kaserne in Gera-Tinz was occupied by about 800 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets, mostly with tank insignia. A resident told that the installation quartered a tank training battalion. One lieutenant colonel was in command of the unit. 1

6. On 8 November, the Reuss Kaserne was occupied to capacity by troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets. All quarters were lighted at dusk. The unit returned on 16 and 17 October. Four 57-mm AT guns were seen with the troops. Between 1 and 8 November the troops engaged in athletic exercises and technical duty. The vehicles were parked in the garages. []

7. On 8 November, the Panzer Kaserne in Gera-Tinz was still occupied by about 200 soldiers. [] the soldiers were exchanged every six weeks. The troops allegedly came from southern Thuringia. An undetermined number of the armored vehicles left the installation toward Zeitz on 18 October. Armored vehicles were no longer seen in the installation after that date. []

8. On 15 November, the Reuss Kaserne was occupied by about 1,200 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery insignia. [] officers and troops carrying boxes and suitcases drive to the railroad station where they boarded the train toward Dresden at about 12:30 p.m. On 2 November, about 80 to 100 soldiers and, on 4 November, about 30 soldiers, were brought to the station by trucks [] About 30 soldiers with signal equipment left the installation toward Dorna on 5 November. 2

9. On 15 November, several residences on the arterial road from Gera to Schleitz quartered about 160 infantry troops, apparently recruits.

SECRET

SECRET

- 3 -

[REDACTED] 25X1

10. On 15 November, the Panzer Kaserne in Gera-Tinz was occupied by 500 to 600 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. The quarters were fully lighted after nightfall. No training activity was noticed between 1 and 15 November. 1

- 25X1 1. [REDACTED] Comment. The previous assumption that the Panzer Kaserne in Gera-Tinz quarters a tank training unit of the Eighth Gds Army is confirmed by the present report. [REDACTED]

- 25X1 2. [REDACTED] Comment. The 308th Arty Brig (US) was confirmed [REDACTED] as being stationed in the Reuss Kaserne until November 1953. Regarding its gun equipment, contradictory information has been obtained.

25X1

SECRET